UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/594
19 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 65

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miloš KOTEREC (Slovakia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Reduction of military budgets:

"(a) Reduction of military budgets;

"(b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures"

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 35/142 B of 12 December 1980 and 51/38 of 10 December 1996.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1997, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 62 to 82, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 13 to 17 and from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/52/PV.3-12). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach were held at six informal meetings, from 27 to 31 October. Draft resolutions on the items were considered at the 15th to 17th meetings, from 5 to 7 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.15-17); action was taken on them at the 18th to 24th meetings, from 10 to 14 and on 17 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.18-24).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (A/52/302);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on military expenditures in standardized forms reported by States (A/52/310);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum, held at Rarotonga from 17 to 19 September 1997 (A/52/413).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/52/L.31

5. At the 15th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Germany, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditure" (A/C.1/52/L.31). Subsequently, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Malta, Monaco, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 19th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.31 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/38 of 10 December 1996 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993 and 49/66 of 15 December 1994, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and

recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General[1] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. Recommends the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. Calls upon all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, for the time being, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B;

---

[1] A/52/302.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

4. Endorses the intention of the Secretary-General, as stated in his report,[1] to resume consultations with relevant international bodies, within existing resources, with a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument to encourage wider participation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations, based on the outcome of the intended consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. Calls upon all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".